

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

WILLIAM NICHOLAS RAND

VS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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NO. 3:17-CV-975-B

NO. 3:09-CR-120-B (02)

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

This cause of action was referred to the United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to the provisions of Title 28, United States Code, Section 636(b), as implemented by an order of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. The Findings, Conclusions and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge follow:

I. Procedural Background

Petitioner filed this petition to vacate, set-aside, or correct sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. On June 12, 2017, the Government filed a motion to dismiss the petition as barred by the statute of limitations. For the foregoing reasons, the Court recommends that the Government's motion to dismiss be granted.

On January 26, 2011, Petitioner pled guilty to three counts of securities fraud, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 77q(a) and 77x. On July 28, 2011, the district court sentenced Petitioner to 168 months in prison. He did not file an appeal.

On March 27, 2017, Petitioner filed the instant § 2255 petition. He argues:

1. He received ineffective assistance of counsel when:

- (a) counsel failed to conduct a proper investigation of the assets seized, which prevented Petitioner from hiring counsel of his choice;
- (b) counsel failed to investigate and demonstrate that certain documents were not securities;
- (c) counsel failed to challenge the Government's use of civil litigation to develop a criminal case; and
- (d) counsel erroneously advised Petitioner that under the plea agreement he had waived all grounds for appeal.

II. Discussion

1. Statute of Limitations

The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 establishes a one-year statute of limitations for federal habeas proceedings. *See* ANTITERRORISM AND EFFECTIVE DEATH PENALTY ACT, Pub. L. 104-132, 110 Stat. 1214 (1996) ("AEDPA"). The statute provides that the limitations period shall run from the latest of:

- (1) the date on which the judgment of conviction becomes final;
- (2) the date on which the impediment to making a motion created by governmental action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is removed, if the Petitioner was prevented from filing by such governmental action;
- (3) the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if the right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review; or
- (4) the date on which the facts supporting the claim or claims presented could have been discovered through the exercise of due diligence.

See 28 U.S.C. § 2255(f).

In most cases, the limitations period begins to run when the judgment becomes final. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255(f)(1). Petitioner's conviction became final on August 11, 2011, when the time for filing an appeal expired. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 4(b) (providing fourteen days to file an appeal in criminal cases). Petitioner then had one year, or until August 11, 2012, to file his § 2255 petition. Petitioner did not file his petition until March 27, 2017.

Petitioner relies on *Luis v. United States*, 136 S. Ct. 1083 (2016), to argue his petition is timely under § 2255(f)(3). This section states the limitations period runs from the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if the right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review. In *Luis*, the Supreme Court found that a pretrial restraint of assets needed to retain counsel violated the Sixth Amendment when the assets were not traceable to a crime or obtained as a result of a crime; that is, the assets were "untainted." *Id.* at 1088. The Supreme Court, however, has not held that *Luis* is retroactively applicable on collateral review. Petitioner has therefore failed to show that his petition is timely under § 2255(f)(3).

2. Equitable Tolling

The one-year limitation period is subject to equitable tolling in "rare and exceptional cases." *Davis v. Johnson*, 158 F.3d 806, 811 (5th Cir. 1998); *see also Fisher v. Johnson*, 174 F.3d 710, 713 (5th Cir.1999) (asserting that courts must "examine each case on its facts to determine whether it presents sufficiently 'rare and exceptional circumstances' to justify equitable tolling" (quoting *Davis*, 158 F.3d at 811)). The Fifth Circuit has held that "[e]quitable tolling applies principally where the plaintiff is actively misled by the defendant about the cause of

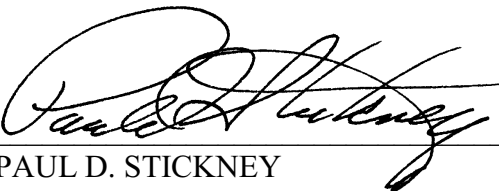
action or is prevented in some extraordinary way from asserting his rights.' " *Coleman v. Johnson*, 184 F.3d 398, 402 (5th Cir.1999) (quoting *Rashidi v. Am. President Lines*, 96 F.3d 124, 128 (5th Cir.1996)). Movant bears the burden of proof to show he is entitled to equitable tolling. *Phillips v. Donnelly*, 216 F.3d 508, 511 (5th Cir. 2000).

Petitioner has failed to show he was actively misled about his habeas remedies or that he was prevented in some extraordinary way from asserting his rights. He has failed to show rare and exceptional circumstances justifying equitable tolling in this case.

III. Recommendation

For the foregoing reasons, the Court recommends that district court grant the Government's motion to dismiss as barred by the one-year statute of limitations.

Signed this 9th day of January, 2018.



PAUL D. STICKNEY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of this report and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); FED. R. CIV. P. 72(b). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Services Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).